



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Reconnaissance Report: Wisconsin River



The Baraboo River basin.

Contact

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Location/Description

The study area covers the Wisconsin River Basin in Wisconsin from Vilas County on the border with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers near Prairie du Chien, Wis. The study area includes the Baraboo River, a tributary of the Wisconsin River, in Monroe, Vernon, Juneau, Sauk, and Columbia counties.

Status

Funds of \$100,000 have been appropriated to initiate this reconnaissance study. The study will explore multiple water resource and environmental objectives including water quality, flood damage reduction, fish and wildlife, water supply and recreation. Coordination has been initiated with interested agencies including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Sand County Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other local and regional agencies. The study was initiated in November 2000 and will be completed within 18 months.

Additional:

The initial agency coordination meetings for the Baraboo River resulted in a realization that the problems of sediment and nutrient transport within the Baraboo River basin would be more properly addressed in a systemic fashion because these problems and opportunities exist throughout the Wisconsin River basin. Preliminary coordination with regional officials regarding the use of Section 403 of P.L. 106-541 (WRDA 2000), which authorizes the study of sediment and nutrient transport in the Upper Mississippi River basin, also resulted in an interest in applying this authority to the Wisconsin River basin. Approval was received on May 31, 2001, to expand the scope, cost and duration of the study to include the entire Wisconsin River basin, increase the study cost to \$200,000, and extend the duration of the study to 18 months. In a letter dated July 9, 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources affirmed their commitment to support the expanded study.

Authority

The Corps of Engineers was authorized by Resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the U.S. House of Representatives, June 14, 1972, to evaluate the problems and opportunities for flood damage reduction and allied purposes in the Wisconsin River, Wis.

Fiscal

The initial \$100,000 for the reconnaissance study was appropriated in FY 2001. The remaining \$100,000 will be reprogrammed from the \$240,000 currently included in the President's FY 2002 budget for the Baraboo feasibility study. The following table summarizes the study cost:

Federal Cost	\$200,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Estimated Cost	\$200,000